

crores; and, a proposal of the Government of Maharashtra for an amount of Rs. 110 crores for sports infrastructure for the Commonwealth Youth Games, 2008, to be held in Pune. In addition, there would be expenditure on certain other aspects such as the International Broadcasting Centre/ Main Press Centre — a Committee has been set up in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to work out the details in this regard, and some minor venues/training venues, which is in the process of being firmed up.

Separately, the Ministry of Home Affairs is in the process of firming up the requirements for the security related arrangements for the Commonwealth Games.

(d) During the last Commonwealth Games, 2006 Indian Players won 50 Medals (22 Gold, 17 Silver and 11 Bronze).

(e) Detailed discussions are being held by the Ministry with each of the National Sports Federations concerned with the Commonwealth Games disciplines and other stakeholders such as IOA, SAI, etc., in this regard with a view to developing specific action plans.

Popularization of sports activities

415. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that youth of our country is becoming sedentary due to modern life style resulting in various diseases;

(b) the steps taken by Government to popularize sports activities among the youth both in urban and rural areas; and

(c) whether Government would launch a scheme with the aim of having healthy youth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) According to information received from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Indian Council of Medical Research, studies done world-wide have shown that increasing sedentariness in children and adolescents is associated with several ill-health effects such as overweight, obesity, hypertension, diabetes, etc. Some random surveys at certain places in India have also shown that responses from a

substantial number of boys and girls showed them not being physically active or not being engaged in sports at school or at home.

(b) Being a State subject, the responsibility for the development and popularization of Sports rests primarily with the State Governments. However, the Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments through a number of schemes for the promotion of sports and sports excellence by way of assistance for organizing sports competitions at various levels, spotting/identification and nurturing of young sports talent through a number of schemes operated by the Sports Authority of India, provision of incentives to sportspersons by way of scholarships, awards and pensions, and assistance to the National Sports Federations for organization of domestic and international competitions in India, participation of sportspersons/teams in tournaments abroad, training with necessary technical back-up supports, coaching through Indian and foreign coaches, and provision of support for procurement of equipments etc. under coaches, and provision of support for procurement of equipments etc. under mutually agreed Long-Term Development Plans (LTDPs).

(c) The Ministry is also considering the launch of a scheme under the title of "Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan" aimed at creating basic sports infrastructure at the grass-roots level to enable access to organized games and sports facilities for, and promotion of sports activities among vast sections of youth in the rural areas, both as an essential ingredient of the healthy development of the youth, and for widening the catchment for spotting and nurturing talent with the aim of improving performance in competitive sports at the national and international levels. Discussions are being held in this regard with various stakeholders and Ministries concerned.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Papers to be Laid on the Table. Shri S. Jaipal Reddy.(*Interruptions*)...